

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 13 as follows:

Conventional mowers for cutting ground vegetation come in a variety of configurations. However, when cutting ground vegetation around upright obstructions (e.g., trees and fenceposts), most conventional mowers require manipulation of the entire mower to effectively cut around the obstructions. As such, frequent manipulation of the entire mower can be required when mowing along a fence line or a line of trees. Particularly with large mowers, such manipulation around upright obstructions can be difficult and slows down the mowing process. Further, the mower and/or the upright obstruction may be damaged if the deck of the mower 20 accidentally strikes the obstruction. Thus, there exists a new need for a mower having a mowing deck which can cut ground vegetation around upright obstructions without requiring manipulation of the entire mower.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 5, line 28 as follows:

Arm assembly 26 generally includes a frame-side section 68 rotatably coupled to frame 22 proximate fore end 32 and left side 36 and a deck-side section 70 rigidly coupled to deck 24. Frame-side section 68 generally includes a pair of spaced-apart upper plates 72 that are rotatably coupled to frame 22 to thereby allow for rotation of arm assembly 26 relative to frame 22 on a first, generally upright, pivot axis ~~74~~ 82. Deck-side section 70 generally includes a pair of spaced-apart lower plates 76 which are rigidly coupled to a lateral member 78. Upper plate 72 and lower plate 76 are preferably hingedly coupled to one another via a hinge joint 80 to thereby allow deck-side section 70 of arm assembly 26 to pivot relative to frame-side section 68 of arm assembly 26 on a second pivot axis ~~74~~ 82. First and second pivot axes 74, 82 preferably intersect one another and extend at least substantially perpendicular to one another. Thus, arm assembly 26 provides for pivotal movement of deck 24 relative to frame 22 on two distinct pivot axes 74, 82.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 10 as follows:

Referring to Figs. 3 and 9, an adjustable stop mechanism 126 cooperates with frame 22 and arm assembly 26 to prevent deck 24 from swinging forward past to the extended position (shown in FIG. 3). Stop mechanism 126 generally includes a threaded nut 128 rigidly coupled to frame 22, a threaded rod 130 threadably intercoupled with nut 128, and a contact plate 132 rigidly coupled to and extending from arm assembly 26. When deck 24 is in the

extended position (shown in Fig. 3), rod 130 contacts contact plate 132 to prevent forward movement of deck 24 relative to frame 22 past the extended position. A handle 134 is coupled to rod 130 so that rod 130 can be rotated in nut 128 to thereby adjust the angle between deck 24 and frame 22 when deck 24 is in the extended position.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 19 as follows:

Referring to Figs. 3 and 10-11, a cable guide 136 is rigidly coupled to frame 22 proximate 20 fore end 32 and right side 38. When cable 122 is not being used to connect spring 114 to frame 22, cable 12 can be threaded through cable guide 136 and coupled to a cable anchor 138 rigidly coupled to deck 24. Referring to Figs. 10 and 11, when coupled to cable anchor 138, cable 122 can be used to pivot deck 24 relative to frame 22 on second pivot axis 82 between an engaged position (shown in Fig. 10) and a disengaged position (shown in Fig. 11). When in the engaged position, deck 24 is adapted to be position positioned proximate the surface of the ground and at least partly supported on the ground by casters 64. When in the disengaged position, deck 24 is pivoted generally upwards from the engaged position with casters 64 being moved out of contact with the ground to thereby provide access to the underside of deck 24. Winch 124 (shown in Fig. 3) can be used to shift deck 24 between the engaged and disengaged position when cable 122 is detached from spring 114. Referring to Fig. 9, it may be necessary to employ a removable support leg 140 when the deck is in the disengaged position in order to restrain tipping of frame 22. Support leg 140 can be shifted between a supporting position wherein leg 140 is received in a support sleeve 142 and a storage position wherein leg 140 is received in storage sleeve 144. Referring again to Figs. 10 and 11, when cable 122 is decoupled from spring 114, a stop pin 145 can be lowered to prevent deck 24 from retracting rearward while deck 24 is in the disengaged position. Referring to Figs. 10-12, when cable 122 is detached from spring 114, spring 114 can be received in and supported by torque element 116.